




BUDGET MEMO # 22

DATE: April 10, 2013

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Richard J. Rappoport, Chief of Police

THROUGH: Robert Sisson, City Manager 

SUBJECT: Coplogic On-Line Reporting System for Police Department

The police department has requested \$20,000 in the FY2014 budget to implement an on-line crime reporting service for citizens. This software will enable citizens to file a report from their personal computer or tablet about incidents such as alcohol violations, civil disputes, destruction of property, disorderly conduct, larceny up to \$5000, loitering, lost property, noise violations, solicitor violations, suspicious events/persons/vehicles, trespassing, telephone harassment or threats, and vehicle tampering. This is not a substitute for reporting in-progress crimes, but offers a significant convenience for reporting crimes or concerns by busy citizens who do not want to wait for a personal visit by the next available patrol officer. A citizen may file an on-line report at any time, from any location, without concern about an officer coming to their home or business...or concern about the officer being observed by others coming to their home or business. However, an on-line report will receive the same scrutiny by the police department, and any follow-up actions that may lead to a successful resolution will be taken. The Coplogic system also provides the citizen with a case number for filing claims or adding information to the police report at a later date.

In the last five years over 350 agencies nationwide have implemented this service for their citizens, including Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, Montgomery County MD and the Washington Metropolitan Police Department. We regularly receive emails from citizens in the City of Fairfax seeking to report an incident online and, based on the experience of similar-sized departments, we would expect to receive 250-500 online reports in the first year.

The estimated cost of \$20,000 represents two expenditures: the cost of the program software from Coplogic and the cost of the records management system integration by our CAD/RMS vendor New World Systems. It is possible that the bid process and subsequent contract negotiation may result in a lower cost than the estimate.